

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 11, 17 and 18 as anticipated by the Zupancic reference, rejected claim 4 as obvious over Zupancic, rejected claims 12 – 14 and 20 as obvious over Zupancic in view of Hounsfield, rejected claims 12 – 14 and 20 as obvious over Zupancic and Sugihara, rejected claims 3, 16, 19 and 21 as obvious over Zupancic in view of Crago, and allowed claims 5 – 10 and 15.

Allowable Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 5 – 10 and 15. Dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 11, 12 and 13 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 5 and so are likewise in form for allowance. Claim 4 has been amended to correct a typographical error and claim 11 has been amended to correct a grammatical error.

35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1, 17 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice, so the rejection thereof is moot. Claims 2 and 11 are amended to depend from allowed claim 5 and are therefore allowable.

35 USC §103

Claims 3, 4, 12 – 14, and 16 have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from allowed claim 5 and so are in form for allowance. Claims 19, 20 and 21 are cancelled so that the rejections thereof are moot.


Conclusion

All pending claims in the application are either allowed or depend from allowed claims. The application has been placed into form for immediate allowance. Early reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Deposit Account Information

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to account no. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,

 (#31,870)

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